

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 4. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. Upon entry of this Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10-14 will be pending.

**Statement of Substance of Interviews**

Applicants thank the Examiner for agreeing to the telephone interview of April 26, 2010, wherein Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed Mr. Suzuki's Rule 132 Declaration. Regarding the rejection based on Segatta, the Examiner indicated that the declaration data appears to overcome the rejection based on Segatta (i.e., the data demonstrates the criticality of the presently claimed bond contents), but does not overcome the rejections based on Ueda, i.e., the data fails to demonstrate the criticality of the presently claimed ratio  $(A)/((A) + (B))$ .

In addition, on May 3, 2010, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed a proposed claim amendment, amending Claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 4. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment appears to overcome the rejections based on Ueda.

**Claim Rejections under § 103**

(a) Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 59-196338 to Ueda and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,913,652 to Imamura and U.S. Patent No. 4,192,366 to Scriver. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Without conceding the merits of the rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 4, which is not part of the present rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(b) Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ueda, Scrivener and Imamura as applied in claim 1 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,003 to Inui.

Claim 7 was canceled in the Amendment filed October 8, 2009, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(c) Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,396,940 to Segatta and further in view of Imamura and Scrivener. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Present Claim 1 is characterized in that (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber has a 3,4-bond content of not more than 0.5% and a ratio by mass of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber to a total of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber and (B) the natural rubber is 5-60 mass%.

According to the present invention, when the 3,4-bond content of the polyisoprene rubber exceeds 0.5%, the extension crystallinity is harmed and the dynamic properties, e.g., durability, are deteriorated.

This unexpected result is neither disclosed nor suggested by Segatta and in view of Imamura and Scrivener.

In this regard, as demonstrated by Mr. Suzuki's Rule 132 Declaration, filed herewith, when the ratio of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber to the total of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber and (B) the natural rubber is 5-60 mass% but the 3,4-bond content of the polyisoprene rubber exceeds 0.5%, the durability of the rubber composition is notably deteriorated, even if the cis-1,4-bond content of the polyisoprene rubber is more than 99.0%. Further, the improvement in the processability is saturated when the ratio of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber to the total of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber and (B) the natural

rubber is more than 60 mass%. Thus, the declaration evidence demonstrates the criticality of the presently claimed bond contents.

Accordingly, Segatta, Imamura and Scriver fail to render obvious the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas M. Hunter  
Registration No. 64,676

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
23373  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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